

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7249

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

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DEPARTMENT FOR EA/EX CHAMPAGNE AND SYST. MARS FROM
SCARRITT

KUALA LUMPUR FOR AMBASSADOR UNDERHILL

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ASEC MY

SUBJECT: SECURITY GUARDS FOR RESIDENCES

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 5811

1. I DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT KUALA LUMPUR WOULD GET INTO THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEND THIS CABLE ON THE SUBJECT. UPON MY ARRIVAL IN KUALA LUMPUR I WAS ASKED TO MEET WITH THE AFSA CHAPTER, WHICH I DID IN COMPANY WITH THE CHIEF OF MISSION, DCM AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

2. THE PRUPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS FOR AFSA TO PRESENT TO ME A SERIES OF BACKGROUND PAPERS THEY HAD DEVELOPED ON THE CURRENT STATE OF INTERNAL TERRORIST ACTIVITY AND AN ASCENDING CURVE OF ROBBERY AND BURGLARY PREVALENT IN THE COUNTRY. POLITICAL TERRORISM IS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE FACT THAT ON MAY 18 TWO SPECIAL BRANCH DETECTIVES WERE ASSASSINATED, AND IN JUNE 1974 THE TOP-RANKING POLICE OFFICIAL IN MAYALSIA WAS ASSASSINATED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT IN DOWNTOWN, KL, RELATIVELY NEAR THE OFFICE BUILDING. THE DOCUMENTATION DESCRIBED IN SIME DETAIL THE RISING RATE OF URBAN TERROR AS A POLITICAL MOTIVE OF THE OPPOSITION.

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3. ANOTHER SYMPTOM IS THAT THE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE, PROFESSIONAL

GUARD SERVICE ORGANIZATION WHICH RSO WAYNE ALGIRE KNOWS, THINKS HIGHLY OF PROFESSIONALLY, AND USES CONTRACTUALLY, CANNOT OFFER ADDITIONAL ARMED GUARDS BECAUSE POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE PIGEON-HOLED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS THEIR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL GUN PERMITS. POLICE APPARENTLY ARE RELUCTANT TO INTRODUCE ANY MORE HANDGUNS INTO THE SOCIETY WHICH I HAVE DESCRIBED ABOVE.

4. ONE OF THE AFSA GROUP CONFERRED WITH THE ENTIRE OFFICIAL AMERICAN FAMILY AND PRESENTED A LIST OF TWENTY-FIVE CASES OF BREAKING AND ENTERING INTO THEIR HOMES. A DAY OR TWO BEFORE MY ARRIVAL ONE OF THE OFFICERS OF THE EMBASSY WAS AWAKENED AT 4 AM BY AN INTRUDER IN THE BEDROOM.

5. I ADVISED AFSA THAT I WOULD STUDY THEIR REQUEST CAREFULLY AND HOPED THAT THEY APPRECIATED THE FACT THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS IN THE THROES OF ADOPTING A NEW SECURITY STANCE IN THE POST-KUALA LUMPUR ERA, AND THAT THERE WAS A GENUINE UNCERTAINTY IN MY OWN MIND AND, I FELT IN THE MINDS OF RESPONSIBLE COLLEAGUES IN WASHINGTON, HOW MUCH MONEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY TO SUPPORT THIS NEW EFFORT. I PROMISED, HOWEVER, TO ADVISE THEM OF MY RECOMMENDATION PROMPTLY.

6. ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND I VISITED SEVERAL HOMES WHICH HE SELECTED ON A SAMPLE BASIS SO THAT I COULD SEE FIRST HAND HOW MUCH OF THE PERSONAL SECURITY PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED BY OUR INSTALLING BETTER LOCKING MECHANISMS, ETC. A NUMBER OF THE HOUSES LENT THEMSELVES TO "BUTTONING UP," BUT OTHERS EQUALLY CLEARLY DO NOT WITHOUT THE EXPENDITURE OF SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS FOR FIXED OR SLIDING GRILLS, ETC. LANDLORDS IN KL DO NOT WELCOME MAKING SUCH EXPENDITURES IN RETURN FOR ADJUSTED RENT. THE BASIC ARCHITECTURE OF MOST SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING IS AN OPEN DESIGN TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN AGREEABLE CLIMATE. SOME OWNERS HAVE INSTALLED BARS AGAINST INTRUDERS WHILE OTHERS HAVE NOT. THE FUNDAMENTAL FACT, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE STAFF IN KL HAS BEEN THROUGH A GENUINE TRAUMA AND SO LONG AS THIEVERY IS RAMPANT TO GATHER FUNDS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, PERSONAL DRUG ADDICTION, OR ANY OTHER REASONS, THE STAFF WILL NOT REST SECURELY IN THEIR RESIDENCES.

7. I THEREFORE ASKED THE RSO TO DEVELOP A SOURCE FOR CONTRACT GUARDS AT THE LEAST POSSIBLE COST AND TO ARRANGE TO OBTAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOSE SERVICES FOR A THIRTY DAY PERIOD UNTIL THE POST COULD RE-ASSESS THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE COULD PROVIDE THE SECURITY BY BETTER LOCKING MECHANISMS, ETC. AND TO IDENTIFY THOSE PROPERTIES WHERE A GUARD WOULD BE THE ONLY FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE. THE RESULTS OF HIS EFFORTS WERE REPORTED IN REFTEL.

8. I DISCUSSED THIS WHOLE PROBLEM PRIVATELY AND SEPARATELY WITH AMBASSADOR AND THE DCM. WE ARE ALL AGREED

THAT THE KL STAFF DESERVES THIS GESTURE OF SUPPORT UNTIL A
DEGREE OF TRANQUILITY RETURNS TO THE STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES.
WHILE WAYNE ALGIRE HAS NOT ASKED FOR IT, I KNOW HE WOULD
APPRECIATE IT, IF WE COULD GIVE HIM SEABEE FOR A FEW WEEKS TO
MAKE SECURITY REVIEWS OF THESE RESIDENCE AND, AS APPROPRIATE
INSTALL SOME SECURITY HARDWARE. IN THE INTERIM, I UNDERSTAND HE
PLANS TO USE THE ASSISTANCE NCOIC IN THIS ROLE. I WILL MAKE THIS
SUGGESTION KNOWN TO KEN KNAUF, HOWEVER, SINCE HE IS CLOSER TO
THE PROBLEM THAN I AND KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF SOME
SEABEE ASSISTANCE. I HOPE THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND
AFFIRMATIVELY, THERE FORE, TO KUALA LUMPUR'S REQUEST SUBMITTED IN
REFTEL.
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